

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096239

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: PRESS LEAK OF SPECIAL US/JAPAN 1975 SALMON AGREE-
MENT

GENEVA FOR AMB T.A. CLINGAN, LOS DELEGATION

1. MATSUOKA, EMBASSY OF JAPAN, INFORMED DEPARTMENT ON
APRIL 24 THAT EVENING EDITION OF ASAHI, DATED APRIL 16,
PRINTED ARTICLE ON PAGE ONE ON SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS CON-
CLUDED BETWEEN US AND JAPAN IN MID-MARCH AT GENEVA TO
PROTECT 1975 BRISTOL BAY RED SALMON RUN. ACCORDING TO
MATSUOKA, ASAHI DESCRIBED ARRANGEMENTS AS SECRET AGREE-
MENT CONCLUDED BETWEEN US AND JAPAN AND GAVE TIME AND
PLACE OF MEETING, NAMED COMPOSITION OF JAPANESE DELEGATION
TO INCLUDE SENIOR OFFICIALS OF FISHERIES AGENCY AND REPRE-
SENTATIVES FROM MAJOR FISHING COMPANIES. INDIVIDUALS
NOT NAMED EXCEPT FOR MATSUURA, JFA, WHO WAS DESCRIBED
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AS HAVING PROCEEDED TO GENEVA FROM MOSCOW WHERE HE WAS

PARTICIPATING IN CRAB NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ASAHI ALSO PRINTED MAPS SHOWING AREA AND TIME CLOSURES AGREED UPON BETWEEN JAPAN AND U.S. AND DESCRIBED ARRANGEMENTS AS BEING ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR TO THOSE IMPLEMENTED IN 1974.

3. IN DISCUSSING LEAK, MATSUOKA EXPRESSED VIEW THAT JAPANESE INDUSTRY MOST LIKELY SOURCE OF LEAK. GOJ APPARENTLY WILL DENY IT WAS PARTICIPANT TO ANY SECRET AGREEMENT.

4. USG MADE COMMITMENT TO GOJ AT GENEVA TO KEEP ARRANGEMENTS CONFIDENTIAL. HOWEVER, PUBLICATION OF ASAHI ARTICLE MAKES IT MOST DIFFICULT AND AWKWARD FOR USG TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS REGARDING EXISTENCE OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT. TO EXPRESS DENIAL COULD CREATE SERIOUS CREDIBILITY PROBLEM AND MAKE MATTERS MORE DIFFICULT. ACCORDINGLY, IF QUESTIONS SHOULD BE RAISED USG PLANS TO RESPOND WITH QUOTE NO COMMENT UNQUOTE.

5. FOR TOKYO: AT GENEVA MEETING GOJ AGREED TO PRESENT USG WITH NOTE STATING JAPANESE INDUSTRY HAS DECIDED TO VOLUNTARILY ABSTAIN FROM FISHING FOR SALMON IN CLOSED AREAS AGREED UPON SO AS TO HELP PROTECT AND CONSERVE SMALL RUN OF BRISTOL BAY SALMON ANTICIPATED THIS YEAR. THIS NOTE HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED AS YET. DELAY IN TRANSMITTAL OF NOTE IS PROBABLY DUE TO EXTENDED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND USSR ON ALLOCATION OF SALMON AND OTHER CATCH QUOTAS IN NORTHWEST PACIFIC WHICH BEGAN EARLY MARCH. NOW THAT THOSE TALKS HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED, WE ASSUME GOJ WILL SHORTLY BE PRESENTING SUCH A NOTE TO USG. PLEASE CONFIRM.

POST IS ALSO REQUESTED TO FURNISH TRANSLATION OF ASAHI ARTICLE. KISSINGER

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